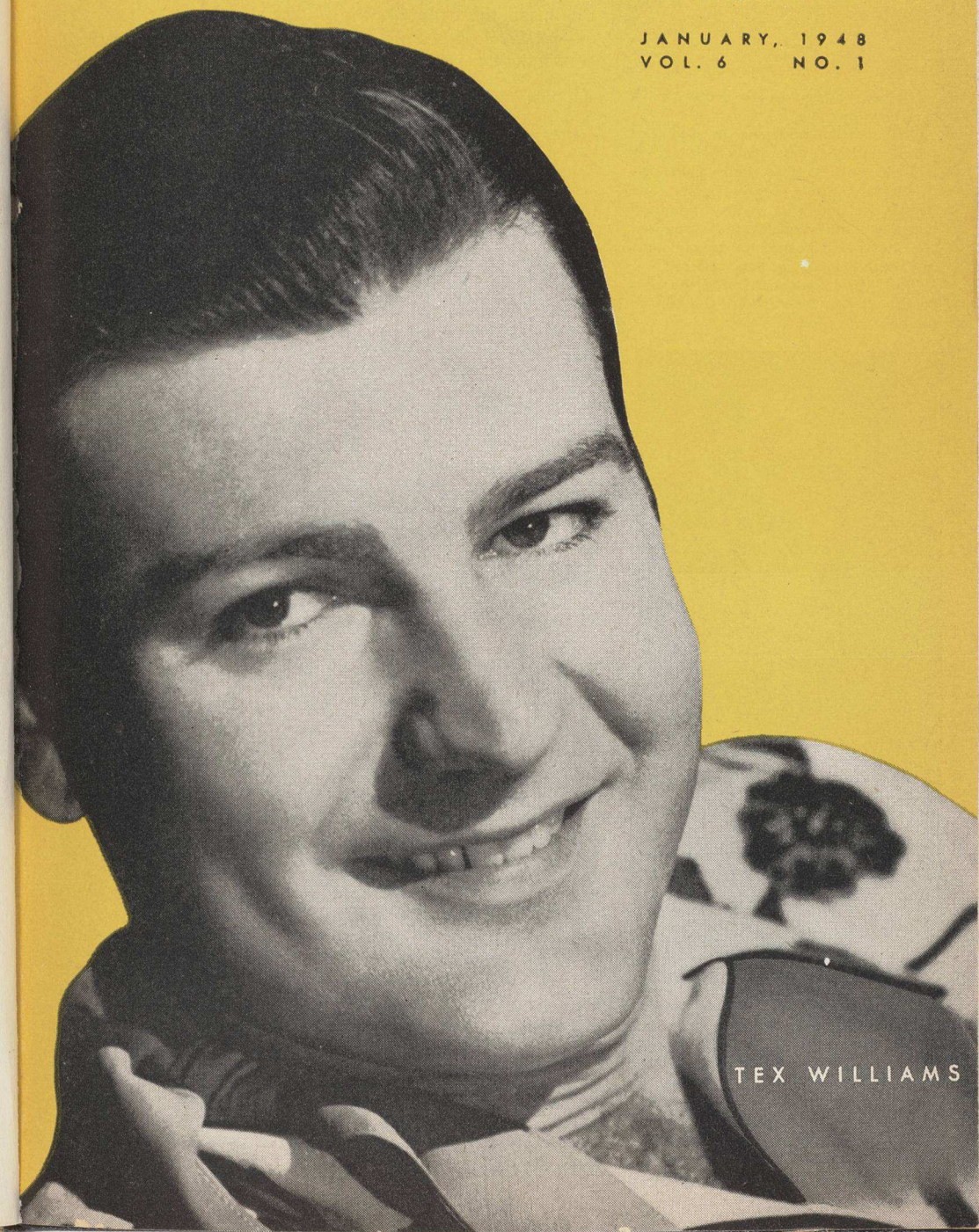



Capitol
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news

from
Hollywood

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TEX WILLIAMS

THE

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EDITED BY DAVE DEXTER, JR.

At Deadline

"It was a panic—the worst we've ever been on."

That's how musicians in Cee Pee Johnson's band described their recent journey to Hawaii. Red Callender, Ulysses Livingston, Dexter Gordon and others declared that money promised them was still unpaid, that promised bookings failed to materialize, and that the entire deal was a rugged hassle.

"But," said Callender, rated the best bassist west of New York, "the trip on the boat was nice."



TEX BENEKE, who actually comes from Texas, toots his tenor pipe at the Palladium. His band opened Christmas week and will hold forth until Woody Herman's revitalized herd takes over on Feb. 3. It's his second trip to the Pally as a band-leader. Tex starts a new radio show this month over CBS to help boost enlistments in the U. S. Air Force.

DAVE DEXTER'S
surface noise

It's 1948—And Here We Go Again

POLLS, POLLS, polls. Every publication has a poll these days. The trade mags, the fan clubs, the college sheets, the dailies, the weeklies—all are leaping into the new year with contrasting results of balloting to determine the "most popular" artists of 1947. There's really only one poll that is important to a reader, and that, obviously, is the poll which finds that reader agreeing with the final tabulations. All the others are "inaccurate." For that reason and for many other reasons the little Cap News monthly will devote no space to poll results. And as in previous years, this sheet will conduct no poll of its own. The practice somehow seems a little silly these days . . . Al Sack's sudden death climaxed a long and tiring fight, on his part, to achieve success as a maestro. The guy was just beginning to hit when pneumonia bowled him over, at 36, and stunned his many friends. Burial was in Hollywood cemetery Dec. 8.

Freddy Martin at \$52 A Couple

Horace Heidt is bagging the worst radio reviews of his career with his new NBC ciggie program, which he plans to tour from here to there and back again. And after all those years in retirement, when he had gobs of time to cook up something good . . . Jimmy Dorsey was alleged to be breaking up his band, with Charlie Barnet to follow, as this issue started rolling on the presses . . . Monte Proser's long-discussed Hollywood Copacabana Club still isn't ready for opening although they've been working on it (the old Troc) for a year or more . . . The New Year's eve fee for drinks and dancing at the Coconut Grove—plus Freddy Martin's music—was a mere \$26 per person this year. Doesn't that add up to \$52 for a guy and his gal? Or does it add up at all?

Monogram Goes Bigtime

Nope, it has nothing to do with the jazz mag even though Bobby Sherwood is playing a role of a bandleader. Monogram is turning out a musical mystery under the title of "Death On the Downbeat" and Little Miss Cornshucks will be seen—and heard—chirping the blues on the pic's soundtrack. The studio is taking great care in the making of the film and does not want it considered a "quickie." Instead of 10 days, it will require at least 15. And that's really big-budget stuff at Monogram!

Red Ingle "Real Gone" With Lutch

Andy Russell thinks he has whipped that streak of bum luck which sent him home from New York ill in December. A tonsilectomy apparently has put him back in biz, and later this month he will detrain again for Manhattan for a run at the Times Square Paramount . . . Red Ingle is sharing the spotlight with Nellie Lutch at Chicago's Hotel Sherman. A last-minute booking bracketed the real gone gal and the zany leader of the Natural Seven together—and the joint's jumping but great. This pillar pilot went to see for himself . . . Ella Fitzgerald should own Hollywood, or become mayor or something, when she arrives here next month for a nitery date. Never has there been such excitement over a fem thrush in Filmtown . . . And if you think good-natured Count Basie doesn't sometimes fret over how and where he's being booked, ponder his behavior. He ambled into a drug store here the other afternoon to buy cigarets and asked for a pack of William Morris.

Arnold Ross Will Have His Own Orchestra

There are few more skilled pianists than Arnold Ross, who came up the hard way—from Boston—as ivory-knuckler with Harry James and as accompanist for Lena Horne. All the more reason, therefore, to bet that his new Hollywood dance band will be extremely successful even though he is gearing it as a "hotel type" combo. The guy's got it . . . Columbia Films is giving Virginia Maxey, the band canary, her chance in flickers with a nice role in "Trail To Laredo," a horse opera starring Charlie Starrett and Smiley Burnette. She's playing the lead, no less . . . Out at 20th-Fox the Starlighters are working with Betty Grable, Doug Fairbanks and Reg Gardner in "This Is The Moment." This chore, of course, in addition to their NBC and recording commitments . . . Frank Sinatra is folding his Barton music pubbing firm which never once was out of the red . . . And may '48 bring you good things too!!

CAPITOL NEWS

Bands Must Drop Prices—Or Else

2 More Theaters
Call It All Off

Gone are the days when dance bands rated \$2,000 and more for a one-night stand.

The new year will find leaders dropping their guarantees so that promoters can sell tickets for \$1 and \$1.50 instead of the \$2.80 most of them now charge. Bandleaders who draw big business won't be hurt, because they'll have a "split" which will allow them to earn even more than \$2,000 a night—but only if they actually do business.

The high price of talent caused the N. Y. Loew's State and the L. A. Million Dollar to discontinue vaude bills last month. But war-time fees for entertainers and bands will decrease in 1948, according to bookers, who are facing a crisis. Something's gotta happen, they say, and it's got to start with the performers.

And so 1948 will bring about the great adjustment. Lower prices for bands will bring in more band buyers willing to gamble. Lower box-office prices will—or should—bring more customers. It's got to be that way, say men who buy and book bands and acts, or else bands and acts soon won't be working. The thing has gotten out of hand and only lowered prices all around the circle will bring about a healthy situation.



THE NEW YEAR will bring more and more big things for the fast-moving team of Jo Stafford and Paul Weston, who air together Tuesdays and Thursdays over NBC for Chesterfield. Lots of records will be forthcoming, too, with Weston arranging and conducting and Jo caroling the lyrics.

—NBC Photo by Earl Ziegler.

Louis Jordan In Florida;
He's All Tuckered Out

Because he is overworked and tired, Louis Jordan has cancelled all commitments for three months and will lie in the sun on a Florida beach until he feels ready to resume engagements with his Tympany Seven.

Louie recently wound up a run at Billy Berg's in Hollywood—giving way to Louis Armstrong—and then had his manager, Berle Adams, put aside future bookings. After a short trip to Chicago to settle certain business affairs, Jordan then trained to Florida. He expects to resume with his band again sometime in late February.

His musicians are working with other

combos, but all but two are expected to rejoin Jordan when he sends out the call.

Ella Here Soon

Details are complete for the coming appearance of Ella Fitzgerald in Hollywood.

Ella will open at Billy Berg's, following Louis Armstrong, on Feb. 18. Vic Dickenson's great little band will be on the stand and the Eddie Heywood Trio also is set as alternate combo. It will mark La Fitzgerald's first nitery appearance on the west coast.

MacRae Set For
Jerry Wald Pic

Young Gordon MacRae, New York singing star who made screen tests last fall while in Hollywood, will soon be given his chance in films.

According to Jerry Wald, Warner Brothers' top producer, MacRae lands his initial assignment in "Rise Above It," which Wald has skedded for production in early '48. MacRae will do his network radio shots from the west coast.

Video for Joan Barton

Joan Barton, Hollywood singer, presented her first of a series of television shows over Paramount's KTLA in mid-December. Produced by Larry Finley, the program is based on the singer's interviews of special guests in a mythical "Sunset Room." Music is recorded.



BETWEEN AIRSHOWS in Hollywood's Radio City, at Coffee Dan's eatery, five ace musickers swap gossip. The group comprises Lou McGarrity, trombone; Charlie Margulis, trumpet; Uan Rasey, trumpet; Mannie Klein, tumpet, and nimble Nick Fatool, drums. Enough talent here to start something exciting!

Red Norvo Agrees To Wax Only For Capitol

The sterling musicianship of Kenneth (Red) Norvo will soon be featured exclusively on Capitol etchings.

Norvo, in late December, signed a long-term deal which will see his mighty talents on vibes and xylophone presented in an album. He also waxed a series of out-and-out jazz discs. He likewise has been busy recording as a featured soloist with Benny Goodman's various small combos on the Cap label.

Red, who makes his permanent home now in nearby Santa Monica and who commutes into Hollywood daily, has been a spectacular and immensely popular performer since he left his home town in Illinois and joined the Paul Whiteman band of the early 1930's.

On his jazz dates for Capitol, for records which will be released as singles, Norvo cut two frankly "bop" sides with Dodo Marmarosa, Dexter Gordon, Ray Linn, Barney Kessel, Jimmy Giuffre, Jackie Mills and Red Callender. Two other faces featured Benny Carter, Dave

Barbour, Bobby Sherwood, Eddie Miller, Arnold Ross, Jess Price and Billy Hadnott.

The album will be specifically designed to display Red's striking talents with the mallets on both "pretty" ballads and flagwaver instrumentals.

Clark Dennis Off On Jaunt East

Following his two-week engagement as headliner at the new Cezar's Club, one of Hollywood's smartest spots, Clark Dennis was planning to fly to Baltimore for a Dec. 31 opening at the Hippodrome Theater, to be followed by two weeks at the 400 Club in St. Louis beginning Jan. 16.

Dennis opened the Cezar Club with the help of Walter Gross, veteran New York pianist, who will remain a Cezar attraction through January. Gross is rated by musicians as having one of the most "fantastic" keyboard techniques in music.

vine street gab

A diminutive gal from the Mid-dlewest who calls herself "Little Miss Cornshucks" is creating just about the biggest sensation of the season in Los Angeles these nights.

"Miss Cornshucks" has an act which brings her out on the stage barefooted in a gingham dress which hardly illustrates the "new look." She carries a little straw basket in one hand and her hair is entwined with a large, colorful ribbon. With a crack sense of pantomime, she then starts singing. What comes out is reminiscent of the 1930s Ella Fitzgerald.

Recently featured at the L. A. Million Dollar Theater, she's been working—and busting b. o. marks—at the Last Word Cafe on Central avenue near 42nd street. Gene Phillips' band supplies dance music. But it is "Little Miss Cornshucks" who packs 'em in.

Former Les Brown trumpeter Jimmy Zito is still holding forth at the Hollywood Club Morocco. The Treniers are the headliners. Zito's young, struggling band is coming nicely.

MGM's forthcoming "Olympic Queen" musical will have songs by old-time Nacio Herb Brown.

Dodo Marmarosa is behind the keys in the little combo that Red Dorris (remember him with Kenton?) is fronting at the Club Manchester on the city's extreme south side. Joe Mondragon, bass, and Jimmy Landreth round it out.

Dave Cavanaugh, triple-threat musician who blows tenor, conducts and arranges for Kay Starr and Joe Alexander on numerous Cap waxings, took his own small band north to Ventura for a run at the Castle Club. His crew is set indefinitely at the spot.

Richard Hageman is scoring "Wal Party" for Argosy Pictures.

Harry James and band, back from another eastern tour, head for Las Vegas soon to play the Flamingo Hotel originally built and run by Bugsy Siegel. Sanford Adler now operates it.

Actor Eddie Albert will become a cowboy singer in "The Tenderfoot" in which he's co-starred with Gale Storm.

Lee, Barbour Will Go East With Durante

Bouncing back from her recent illness with incredible vitality, Peggy Lee resumed her work on the Jimmy Durante NBC program, recorded a healthy batch of wax and made plans for a trip to New York in late December.

Peggy made some of her discs with Benny Goodman. They'll be released soon.

On Jan. 12, she and the Durante troupe will arrive in Chicago, followed by personal appearances in Kansas City, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Louisville, New York and Atlanta. Virtually all of the appearances will be in behalf of the "March Of Dimes" campaign.

Accompanying Peggy to the eastern cities will be Dave Barbour, her guitar-strumming husband. It is also likely that Peggy and Dave will remain in New York in February to appear at a Manhattan nitery. Durante will play the Capcabana. In March, the Schnoz, Peg, Dave and the Durante gang all will return to Hollywood.

Abe Burrows to Air Saturdays In Earlier Spot

Funny man Abe Burrows, who "sings" gags and special material as he pecks a piano keyboard, has bagged a sponsor for his Saturday CBS show and will be heard at an earlier time, coast to coast, starting in mid-January over the same net.

Burrows' new time is set for 7:45 p.m. New York time. Listerine will pay the tab.

For several months featured over CBS without a sponsor, Abe is noted for his Brooklyn accent as well as his broad, versatile type of humor.

The network's new schedule for Saturday will find Hoagy Carmichael airing immediately ahead of Burrows, at 7:30 p.m. Both Burrows and Carmichael have quarter-hour shows.

CBS also is reported trying to put "It Pays to Be Ignorant" on the air at 7, immediately ahead of the other two, as a co-operative program. Philip Morris no longer will bankroll it, having lined up Harry James and Dinah Shore for a new program slated to bow in sometime this month.



WELCOMED BACK by the boss himself to the Jimmy Durante show after an illness of several weeks, Peggy Lee is now back in action and planning a long trip to New York in January—with the entire Durante radio troupe—to present a series of "March of Dimes" shows. Schnoz, Peg, Arthur Treacher and others air every Wednesday over NBC.

Theaters, Hotels, Clubs... They All Want Our Nellie

Nellie Lutcher hits the road again in January following her Chicago Sherman Hotel engagement, playing top theaters and niteries as a single and opening on Jan. 23 at the Howard Theater in Washington.

The real gone gal gets going again the following week in Baltimore at the Royal. A four-week stand at the Chase Hotel in St. Louis is slated to start on Feb. 14.

Meanwhile, during her current Sherman run in Chi, she waxed a series of pancakes for Capitol which will be regularly released throughout 1948. A Nellie Lutcher album also is in preparation for release next spring. It will con-

tain three Lutcher originals and three standard tunes, none of which has been released previously.

Two Hollywood film studios are frantically trying to bag Nel for pix but Carlos Castel, her manager, will hold off on celluloid commitments until she returns to California to play one of the Sunset Strip bistros.

Malibar Offers Smith

Johnnie Smith, featured a few seasons back with Wingy Manone, opened at the L. A. Club Malibar on Dec. 1 with his own quartet, featuring Hal Wetherwax, Fritz Becker and Bernie Halpert.



GORDON MacRAE
with Paul Weston and His Orchestra

'At the Candlelight Cafe'

FLIPOVER:

'I Surrender Dear'

Capitol RECORDS

CAPITOL RECORD No. 15014



TEX WILLIAMS

And His Western Caravan

'NEVER TRUST A WOMAN'

Smart patter by Tex and Trio

FLIPOVER:

'WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BLUE'

Capitol RECORDS

CAPITOL RECORD No. 40054



JIM STUART models, three strong and luscious all, bend elbows with Skitch Henderson, who this month is leading his dance band at the Chase Hotel in St. Louis. The chicks are Barbara Bushman, Pat Hyde and Barbara Sinclair. When he's not gabbing with beauties, Henderson plays a bit of piano.

Armstrong 'Flattered' By Invite To Play Paris

Louis Armstrong, who returned with his great little all-star combo to Billy Berg's on Christmas Eve, says he is "flattered and real interested" to know that a group of French jazz enthusiasts are seeking him for a jazz festival to be held in Paris Feb 25 through March 4.

Contracts had not been signed, however, as the Cap News went to press Christmas week.

The French, with Hugues Panassie leading the pleas, are anxious to see and hear the great Satchmo in person. They also have sent inquiries as to Lionel Hampton's availability. Joe Glaser manages both Louis and Lionel.

Armstrong, hotter at the box-office right now than he has ever been before, swept back into Hollywood on the heels of magnificent triumphs in San Francisco, Chicago, New York and a dozen other cities. Big Jack Teagarden came with him, and so did Barney Bigard, Big Sidney Catlett, Dick Carey and a new bass-player, Arville Shaw. It was at Berg's last summer, that Arm-

strong began his experiment as leader of a small, jumping, combo reminiscent of his old Hot Five and Hot Seven recording units of the 1920's. The engagement broke all records, and today, with Negro and white musicians playing together in one solid little unit, Satch is creating new standards not only in music but also in making true democracy effective and popular.

Beryl for Doris On 'Hit Parade'

Less than a year ago, British-born Beryl Davis left Hollywood for New York, where she bagged a singing spot on a program sponsored by Camel cigarettes.

Last month she returned to California. The reason? She was offered the Doris Day spot on the "Hit Parade" show with Frank Sinatra, sponsored by Lucky Strikes. Doris, now a film actress, quit the program in order to concentrate on movie commitments.

'Silver Lining' Film Will Spot Bing Boffo In Song Classics 'Yankee' Role

The music of Jerome Kern, Victor Herbert, Vincent Youmans, J. Fred Coots and even Sigmund Romberg will all be featured in Warner Brothers' forthcoming "Silver Lining" picture starring June Haver.

The story will be based on the life of Marilyn Miller, personable Ziegfeld star. Jerry Wald will produce it and David Butler is pegged as megger.

Included among the ditties to be reprised on the "Silver Lining" soundtrack will be "Who," "Time On My Hands," "Sunny," "Kiss In the Dark," "Oh Gee, Oh Joy" and "Why" and from the shows "Sally" and "Sunny" by Kern; "Smiles," by Youmans; "Follies," by Herbert; "Passing Show" by Coots. In addition, studio has seen Ralph Blane to compose some original numbers for film.



WITH ONE of the big-selling discs of 1947 to her credit, Julia (Snatch And Grab It) Lee is snapped while recording a batch of sequels on her recent Cap session in Hollywood. The drummer is Sam (Baby) Lovett, who has worked with Julia for a decade, and who has been featured on every record she's made. Julia starts playing eastern theaters as a single, in February.

Photo by Otto Rothschild

They've got Bing Crosby working again over at Paramount, and this time he's facing the cameras in a Camelot setting and displaying his versatility by not only singing, but by jousting with no less a character than Sir Launcelot. It's all for scenes in "A Connecticut Yankee," the thirty-ninth film Der Bingle has attempted since he began his career in Hollywood more than 15 years ago.

Third Time On Screen

The Crosby version of the Mark Twain fantasy will be the third to reach the screen, and the first in Technicolor. It was made by Fox in 1921—silent, of course—with the late Harry Myers as the Yankee, and again in 1931, with the late Will Rogers. As a vehicle for the redoubtable Groaner, it will run into money—between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 worth. It should gross three times either figure.

Tay Garnett is directing and Robert Fellows, who used to be his assistant, is producing.

Twain Story Followed

Both Garnett and Fellows are jubilant over Edmund Beloin's screen play, which they declare sticks closer to the Twain original than either earlier version. The "modern" prologue and epilogue are being kept at a period around 1905 (Twain wrote the book in 1889,) when things like telephones and automobiles were still novelties, and will avoid any invidious comparisons with the atomic age.

"Sir Boss," the Yankee, will confine himself to such modest miracles as the "invention" of the match, the safety pin and, of course, the total eclipse of the sun at 12:03 p.m. on June 21, A.D. 528, with which he not only confounds Merlin, the magician, but also saves himself from being roasted to a crisp.

New Songs Used

As the Yankee, Hank Martin (changed from Hank Morgan so as not to conflict, probably, with you know whom,) Bing is supported by Rhonda Fleming as Alisande, Sir Cedric Hardwicke as King Arthur, Murvyn Vye as Merlin, Virginia Field as Morgan le Fay, Joseph Vitale as Sir Logris, Henry Wilcoxon as Sir Launcelot, Richard Webb as Sir Calahad, and William Bendix as a combination of Sir Sagramor and the "Clarence" of the novel.

Croz Fights Knights In New Pic



HERE'S HOW Bing Crosby will look in Paramount's forthcoming "A Connecticut Yankee" movie which is being picturized for the third time. Getting her big break with Crosby will be virtually unknown Rhonda Fleming, shown on the set with Croz above.

The score by Rodgers and Hart (from the play) has been discarded in favor of five new songs by Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen, Crosby's fair-haired boys. One reason, Garnett explained, is that "My Heart Stood Still," the hit ballad, is now considered "tired" (although "Thou Swell" isn't.) Another is that Lorenz Hart, who might have whipped up some new lyrics, is dead. The substitute tunes are "Once and For Always," a ballad; "If You Stub Your Toe on the Moon," a bit of "philosophical" whimsy for Bing; "Twixt Myself and Me," for Murvyn Vye; "Busy Doing Nothing," a trio, and "When Is Sometime?"

Rhonda Fleming Gets Break

Rhonda Fleming sings this one. Not only is it her first song but she recorded it with a cold. The attractive hazel-eyed, reddish-blond actress said she had been studying voice culture for

five years but when the time came she had to "unculture" everything she had learned. Victor Young, the conductor-arranger, insisted that she half-speak the words huskily, intimately—"and this head cold," she sniffled, "made me do it automatically! They got just the low throaty tone they wanted."

She's a Mormon

Miss Fleming, who won the role of "Sandy," over a half dozen other aspirants, is a Los Angeles girl of Mormon descent. A discovery of Henry Willson, David Selznick's aide, she made her debut as the "nympho" in "Spellbound" and appeared subsequently in "Abilene Town," "The Spiral Staircase," "Out of the Past" and "Adventure Island." Still under contract to Selznick, she is likely to remain on loan indefinitely to Paramount and also to Crosby, who has requested her for three of his own productions.

'NEVER MAKE EYES'

(At The Gals With The Guys Who Are Bigger Than You)

Johnny Mercer

With Paul Weston And His Orchestra

Lyrics with a laugh plus a cute tune



'THAT'S THE WAY HE DOES IT'

Johnny—And The Pied Pipers

CAPITOL RECORD No. 15016



MARGARET WHITING *****

With The Crew Chiefs and Frank De Vol And His Orchestra

'PASS THAT PEACE PIPE'

A Novelty tune with an Indian beat. From the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture "Good News"

Flipover: 'LET'S BE SWEETHEARTS AGAIN'

CAPITOL RECORD No. 15010





WE SAID...

VAUDEVILLE



IS DEAD?

Somethin' new and different, as they say in show biz circles, has just been released on a new Capitol needling. "I Love To Listen To The Echo" and "Snore Your Blues Away" probably won't make the Hit Parade during the new year, but it's a cinch that the two sides will create a new star on wax—Dave Franklin and his Franklins.

Franklin, one of the nation's most successful songwriters, was a vaudeville star back in the late 1920's and even clicked on a European tour. Now he's back doing his original vaude routines, Palace Theater style—on records. That's Johnny Mercer, left above, who seems so intrigued. Johnny now is in New York writing songs for a new Broadway show. At right above, Gordon MacRae, soon to star in Warner Brothers' films, appears perplexed. He's too young to remember the "good" old days when Franklin (center) and other top-flight acts trod the boards with comic routines twice-a-day in houses throughout the nation. But MacRae's parents remember. And so do millions of others.



STAN KENTON'S "progressive" bandsmen cut a cake with two fan club youngsters at the Hotel Commodore. The band and June Christy (lower left) go into the N. Y. Paramount in January for a long run. Take another look at the uniforms the boys are wearing—maybe it's the "new look" for males. The ascots feature black and grey stripes with pearl tiepins to match. Nothing like that has ever been worn by musicians—up till now.

—Photo by Irving Kaufman.

Tex Tears Into '48 With Zeal

(This Month's Cover Feature)

The new year will find a new artist drawing new highs at the box-office.

Last January, Tex Williams worked for union scale. In June, his Capitol Americana disc of "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke" was released. By November it had exceeded the 1,000,000 mark in sales—and it's still moving.

Tex, who grew up in Denison, Tex., plays guitar, bass and—as everyone knows—sings a good song. His "Never Trust a Woman" may still outsell "Smoke." When he's not out touring with his Western Caravan, he and his wife make their home in the Valley just outside Hollywood.

Beatrice Kay Here

Florentine Gardens is following its current Ted Lewis show with Beatrice Kay, who will star at the spot through most of January, with Chuck Could leading the house band.

red Ziegler
and
THE NATURAL SEVEN
CAPITOL RECORD No. 476

'NOWHERE'
Red in that old "Tim-Tayshun" groove!

'PAGAN NINNY'S KEEP 'ER GOIN' STOMP'

Capitol RECORDS

Meet the Jock!

MIKE RICH spins 'em high, wide and handily over WTRY in Troy, N. Y., with three daily programs and a large and loyal audience. A former trumpet tooter and record salesman, Mike is a Kenton fanatic and rates the tall



Artistry in Rhythm pianist as the outstanding cat in the field. A sharpie, Rich has a wife, Vee, who works

in a Troy disc shop selling platters her hubby plugs over the airwaves. Together, they can't miss.

Share Ciro's Billing

Carmen Cavallaro and his band, and Evelyn Knight, radio singer, were to share billing at their Dec. 29 Ciro's opening on the Sunset Strip. Miss Knight will work the spot only two weeks.

Wow! Have You Dug Kenton's '48 Ascots?

Following his January engagement at New York's Paramount Theater, Stan Kenton has scheduled concerts for famed Carnegie Hall Feb. 14 and another in Boston's Symphony Hall to follow. Fred Robbins, Gotham jock, is the man behind Stan's Carnegie appearance. Robbins' recent series of bashes in the big hall have consistently rung up fat grosses.

The Kenton band, sporting eye-catching uniforms and fancy ascots with pearl pins, bowled over Manhattan audiences during its Hotel Commodore engagement in December.

Stan and his musicians, June Christy still slinging most of the lyric work, also have scheduled the Adam Theater in Newark the week starting Feb. 26, the Hippodrome in Baltimore starting March 4, the Washington Howard on March 12 and the Royal Baltimore beginning March 19.



CROWN PRINCE Waterford, who came out of the Ozarks hills a few seasons ago, is the newest blues shouter to be signed to a Capitol waxing binder. Waterford, whose father is a prominent minister in Arkansas, offers "Weeping Willow Blues" and "Move Your Hand, Baby" as his first coupling. A jumping rhythm section accompanies his stentorian singing.

New Babasin Ork Hailed In L.A. Texan Features A 'Hot' 'Cello

The eyes of Texas may not be trained on Harry Babasin, one of its native sons, but the eyes of Los Angeles these past six weeks have been ganderling bass-playing Harry's new band with more than mere curiosity.

Until recently a bulwark of Benny Goodman's rhythm section, young Babasin in late November cut out to form his own combo. Like every young leader he insisted his music would be "different." But unlike the others, his music turned out to be just that.

Plenty of Showmanship

Babasin, a graduate of North Texas State College in Denton (where Annie Sheridan grew up), brought his college pal Jimmy Giuffre to Hollywood from the Lone Star state to help him get started. Dale Pearce joined on trumpet. Hal McKusick came in on alto. Herbie Harper is on trombone. Arnold Ross has been playing piano, temporarily, and a fly tub-thumper by the name of Blinky Garner joined on drums.

Add 'em up and you've got music—fresh, stimulating music. "We try to be progressive," Babasin, who doubles on viola and 'cello declares, "but we don't sit around playing bopping dis-

Coast Cool To Lawrence's Ork

Elliot Lawrence and his orchestra, replaced at the Hollywood Palladium on Christmas week by Tex Beneke, have already left the west coast and are booked to play a Kansas City one-nighter on Jan. 3.

The band's weekly grosses at the Palladium were anything but startling. Spot's management, in fact, began mulling the feasibility of keeping the big dancery open on week-ends only during Lawrence's run but until the bands already contracted have played their engagements the present "dancing every night" policy will remain in effect.

Tex Beneke, who did well at the Pally a year ago, hopes to put the spot back in action. Even Harry James failed to go big on his recent Pally stint. West coast dancers are guarding their coins carefully and biz has been n. s. g. throughout the state.



TEXAS-REARED Harry Babasin fronts his new Hollywood dance band with his 'Cello, providing an unorthodox but showmanly setting which west coast dancers have been applauding. Others shown are Arnold Ross, piano; Blinky Garner, drums; Dale Pearce, trumpet; Hal McKusick, alto; Herbie Harper, trombone, and Jimmy Giuffre, tenor.

sonances. There's an element called showmanship which too many bands overlook. We try to combine musicianship with showmanship and good dance tempos."

Red Norvo Grabbed Giuffre

Giuffre is equally adept on alto as tenor sax, and his inventive, Sauter-inspired arrangements are so gone that Red Norvo, preparing to make jazz discs for Capitol last month, rushed out and asked Giuffre to handle the arranging for the session.

Pearce, McKusick and Babasin himself all played with Boyd Raeburn in Hollywood about a year ago, but a "mutiny" of musicians within the ill-fated Raeburn aggregation saw them cutting out, with a half-dozen others, to seek greener pastures.

And now the young, enthused gang of modernists are looking forward to 1948 as a new year and a new deal. On one-nighters, to date, they've boffed everybody, including envious musicians. That doesn't happen often around Hollywood.

Herman Home Following Tour

Roaring in from St. Louis after two long, hard months of nightly appearances on the road, the rejuvenated Woody Herman band arrived in Hollywood in time for the Christmas holidays.

Herman, who lives in a swank home atop a Hollywood mountain looking directly down upon Ciro's nitery, and his wife, Charlotte, are expecting a new addition to the family in early spring.

The Hollywood Palladium will be the WH herd's next big engagement, starting Feb. 3 for six weeks. In April, Woodrow and his musicians, with Jeri Ney on deck as canary, train out to play the New York Hotel Commodore, a spot they've never been in previously. Eddy Howard and his band are currently at the Commodore.

PEGGY LEE with Dave Barbour and His Orchestra
'Golden Earrings'
Haunting gypsy melody from Paramount's "Golden Earrings."

'I'll Dance at Your Wedding'
Clever lyrics—lots of bounce.

Capitol RECORDS
No. 15009

off the cuff

PATRONS WHO dropped into the hincty, ultra-ultra Circus room of Santa Monica's lavish Hotel Ambassador last month were surprised—even jolted—to hear the jumpin' eight-to-a-bar boogie and blues pianistics of the one and only Pete Johnson emanating from the bandstand.

Johnson has been famous for more than a decade among certain musicians and jazz fans for his powerful, propelling Steinway-stabbing tactics. He arrived in Southern California in December without advance notice, and immediately bagged the Hotel Ambassador job just outside Hollywood. His success in the room is all the more intriguing because the management has, in the past, preferred to feature "society" combos, corn trios, King Cole imitators and the like.

Johnson may soon be working in the heart of Hollywood with his old pal, Joe Turner. A deal is cooking.

Matt Dennis is doing a single at the Haig, on Wilshire, and building a sock following. Matt pounds the Knabe and sings. Much of his best material is stuff he has composed himself.

Gene Austin now running his own Blue Heaven nitery in Las Vegas, Nev.

Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers left H'wood for Florida singing engagement.

Spike Jones tees off on 31 concerts Jan. 5.

Desi Arnaz and band opened at San Fran's Golden Gate Theater Dec. 31 for a week.

The Merry Macs open at the Palladium in London on March 1, first time the combo has worked abroad.

Bing Crosby bought stock in the Billings, Mont., baseball club. Groaner already owns a part of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Hollywood Stars.



BENNY GOODMAN soon will be featuring his trio again on wax. He etched a gang of biscuits with a three-man combo last month in New York, the first pair slated for February release. Benny just moved into his new home, too, outside Hollywood on the shore of the Pacific. Except for occasional trips and tours east, BG expects to remain a Californian permanently.

New Orleans' pride, Zutty Singleton, doing such a good job with his trio that the Swanee Inn again tossed him a holdover ticket.

Rudy Vallee launched a Hollywood gossip program over Mutual web Fridays.

Peggy Lee and Dave Barbour's newest composition is "Manana Is Soon Enough for Me" and will soon be released on a record. They also clefled "It's a Good Day" and "I Don't Know About You."

Eastern Offers Spurned By 'Hot' Kay Starr

Postponing her proposed December trip to Chicago because of heavy recording schedule and personal appearances at the Los Angeles Trianon Ballroom as a singer in California until February. Then she will train out to play niteries and theaters.

Kay, who became prominent as singer with Charlie Barnet and Jimmy Venuti, took on Berle Adams as her personal manager last month. Adams recently moved to Los Angeles from Chicago, where he was hailed as a "boMaxie's Hollywood bistro in December. wonder" for his shrewd management of Louie Jordan and for his activities as stand song pubber. He moved his song firm to the coast along with his family.

Kay's newest disc entry, "Then I'll Be Tired of You," is attracting wide comment and a multitude of jits in the jukes because of the unusual instrumentation behind her as arranged and conducted by Dave Cavanaugh. The reverse side, "Was That the Human Thing to Do," features eight brass and a pennon including Benny Carter, LeDollor eatery, as oriole with Ted Fio Young, Babe Russin, Eddie Kusby, Bill Hadnott, Lou McGarrity and otherant is on Hollywood's Vine street just During her December sessions, Remorth of Sunset blvd. Norvo, Red Callender, Arnold Ross, Re Nichols and Jack Marshall were all be hind her, with Cavanaugh again wields ing his tenor sax and baton.

Meet the Jack!

BILL GORDON wears the Purple Heart as a result of his service on the Aircraft Carrier Bunker Hill. But you never know judging from his "1340 Club" shows over WHHM in Memphis, for his sense of humor is rated as the brightest in the South, his choice of records impeccable. He "thinks" he was born in Kansas City and is positive he was reared and schooled in Memphis. Gordon holds forth every afternoon from 3 to 5 over WHHM and Memphis folk love him—and his etchings.



singers' stuff

COLUMBIA STUDIOS has abandoned plans to film a second "Jolson Story" filmusical. Larry Parks refuses to play the lead role and there were other complications which necessitated dropping the sequel. The picture still may be made at another studio, however, depending on whether another actor to play the Jolson role can be found.

Virginia Maxey, who canaried for Tony Pastor, Bobby Byrne and other Chorks, bobbed up as a single at Slapsy cago, where he was hailed as a "boMaxie's Hollywood bistro in December. wonder" for his shrewd management of Dick Stabile's band holds down the Louie Jordan and for his activities as stand song pubber. He moved his song firm to the coast along with his family.

Geraldine DuBois and the Reed Sisters are the singers whom Ted Lewis is featuring in his entertaining troupe at the Florentine Gardens. Ted replaced Sophie Tucker, who smashed just about every mark the Gardens ever posted.

Carol Temple pulled into town, and to coast with Reg D. Marshall setting bookings west of Mississippi.

Make what you will out of this item, but Margaret Whiting led the cheering section for Notre Dame alumni while Peggy Lee dittoed for USC on the night before the Irish-Trojan grid game in L. A. last month. Both received tickets to the game.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe, blues and spirituals singer, is heading for the west coast with Reg D. Marshall setting bookings west of Mississippi.

Nat Cole flew to N. Y. on Dec. 19 to participate in Metronome mag's annual "all-star" wax session. His trio won all the polls again this year. On Jan. 23, Nat and his men (Irving Ashby, guitar; Johnny Miller, bass) open at the Town Casino in Buffalo.

Billy Eckstine due to report at MGM on Jan. 5. He made film tests here last year.

Maxene Andrews up and around again after a fall from a horse in which she fractured a bone in her leg.



THE STARLIGHTERS, heard with Jo Stafford and Paul Weston twice-weekly over NBC, have just signed as exclusive Capitol biscuit performers. Here they line up to look pretty for the people with Pauline Byrns, Vince Degen, Tony Paris, Howard Hudson and Jerry Duane shaping up into one of the slickest and most popular vocal combos around. Check that, if you insist, with their first faces, "Too Fat Polka" and "Your Red Wagon."

—Photo by Otto Rothschild.

Berlin Writes 8 New Tunes

Irving Berlin has completed eight new songs to be featured in MGM's "Easter Parade" now in production with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire co-starred.

Eight old Berlin standards also will be heard on the soundtrack. The new entries include "Better Luck Next Time," "Happy Easter," "Steppin' Out With My Baby," "It Only Happens When I Dance," "Mister Monotony," "A Fella With An Umbrella," "A Couple of Swells" and "Drum Crazy."



JO STAFFORD
with Paul Weston and His Orchestra
CAPITOL RECORD
No. 15007

'SERENADE OF THE BELLS'
Jo, with eight-voice chorus

'THE GENTLEMAN IS A DOPE'
From the Musical "Allegro." A lively, novelty lyric.

Capitol
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.
RECORDS

new!
Her Very Latest Release!
Nellie Lutcher
and Her Rhythm
CAPITOL RECORD
No. 40063



'DO YOU OR DON'T YOU LOVE ME?'
FLIPOVER:
'The Song is Ended'
Capitol
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.
RECORDS

who's where

LOUIS ARMSTRONG: Billy Berg's.
 CONNIE JORDAN: Billy Berg's.
 ERNIE FILICE: Cezar's.
 PETE DAILY: Hangover Club.
 DICK STABILE: Slapsey Maxie's.
 TEX BENEKE: Palladium.
 JAN GARBER: Hotel Biltmore.
 FREDDY MARTIN: Hotel Ambassador.
 WALTER GROSS: Cezar's.
 ALVY WEST: Chanteclair.
 CEECHIE SMITH: Cricket Club.
 GENE PHILLIPS: Last Word Club.
 TED FIO RITO: Tom Breneman's.
 SIGMUND SCHATZ: Bublichki.
 CHUCK GOULD: Florentine Gardens.
 D'VARGA: Mocambo.
 ABBEY BROWNE: Charley Foy's.
 BEATRICE KAY: Florentine Gardens.
 LITTLE MISS CORNSHUCKS: Last Word Club.
 EVELYN KNIGHT: Ciro's.
 CARMEN CAVALLARO: Ciro's.
 JOE LUTCHER: Jack's Basket Room.
 JO STAFFORD: NBC, Hollywood.
 PAUL WESTON: NBC, Hollywood.
 PERRY COMO: NBC, Hollywood.
 FRANK SINATRA: NBC, Hollywood.
 BERYL DAVIS: NBC, Hollywood.
 RAY NOBLE: NBC, Hollywood.
 ZUTTY SINGLETON: Swanne Inn.
 MATT DENNIS: The Haig.
 MARGARET WHITING: CBS, Hollywood.
 BOB CROSBY: CBS, Hollywood.
 ANDREWS SISTERS: CBS, Hollywood.
 ROY MILTON: Cobra Club.
 SAUNDERS KING: Downbeat Club.

Haw! Longhairs Eye Jazz Gold

Finally taking notice of the widespread popularity of jazz, the Hollywood Bowl last month in its monthly magazine supplement made this editorial comment:

"Hollywood Bowl Association does not presume to think the Bowl should be turned over to this type of concert very often, but we wish to point out to our readers that throughout the nation the popular arts are being called upon to help support the classical arts."

1947 A Smashing Year For Capitol's Americana Gang

By LEE GILLETTE

The past twelve months proved to be a most rewarding and important year for many Capitol Americana recording artists. They traveled far and wide across the nation to personally meet their many followers. A couple of them became national favorites. They made many movies. And near the end of the year they recorded more songs in a few weeks than they had recorded in the last few years.

Down in Nashville, Tennessee, the folks became more conscious of Capitol recording artists than ever before. Tex Ritter made his usual two guest appearances on the WSM-NBC "Grand Ole Opry." Jimmy Wakely was hosted on one occasion, while Wes Tuttle and Merle Travis made their first appearances on the popular national hookup from the home stomping grounds of folk music.

Travis Helped Williams

Merle Travis gained new fame in '47 which resulted in not only opening up greater fields for himself, but also made a star out of an unknown cowboy singer when Merle wrote "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke" in collaboration with (and for) Tex Williams.

Never in the history of folk music has an artist skyrocketed to the top as quickly as did Tex Williams and his Western Caravan. In 1947 he appeared on many coast to coast programs, including Jo Stafford's Supper Club, the Jack Smith Show and the Spike Jones "Coke" show, the first time a western artist has ever been invited to guest on so many "big time" radio shows in such a short span of time.

Last year many new artists were signed to the Capitol banner, some of whose records are just in the process of being released.

Thompson Waxed In October

In April, the "Singin' Sheriff" of the Los Angeles police force, Larry Cassidy, became an Americana recording artist. In May, two girls from the hills of



WESLEY TUTTLE, long a western favorite in Southern California, makes news this month with his trip into the South and a guest shot on the popular "Grand Ole Opry" show out of Nashville.

Photo by Charlie Milne

Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Sweetheart recorded their first sides. After extensive tours with Tex Ritter, the M. Twins were handed a Capitol contract in June. From the personnel of Cliffie Stone's Barn Dance Band, August was the "red letter" month for Eddie King. In September, fiddler Arthur Smith who has been making records for over two decades, joined the Capitol banner, and in October, a new find from West Texas, Hank Thompson, was signed and cut his first sides in the studios of WFAA, Dallas, Texas.

1947 saw many new record jockeys in the western field, including Jimmy Wakely who is now on KNX-CBS five mornings a week. Cliffie Stone took over the Foreman-Phillips Western Parade on KRKD in addition to his many other radio activities. Cliffie also added KFI to the list of stations on which he is a western jockey and even you truly joined the ranks with a jockey show on Sunday mornings on KGIL in San Fernando Valley.

The big news in the western social circle was the Roy Rogers-Dale Evans wedding scheduled for New Year's Eve and the annual Christmas parties given by Smiley Burnett and Gene Autry.

hail the "King" for another great album!

vol. III

with SIX TERRIFIC TITLES

'Makin' Whoopee'

'Too Marvelous For Words'

'I'll String Along With You'

'This Is My Night To Dream'

'Rhumba Azul'

'Honeysuckle Rose'



A "must" for every record fan. The King Cole Trio —

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by the solid instrumentaling of the nation's most

popular trio. Ask for Vol. III by The King Cole Trio.

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Julia LEE
 and Her Boy Friends
 Vocal and piano,
 with orchestra of
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Capitol RECORDS

'(Opportunity Knocks But Once) SNATCH AND GRAB IT'
 Sorta like 'Gotta Gimme Whatcha Got.'

'I WAS WRONG'
 CAPITOL RECORD NO. 40028

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Hal Rolls On As Maestro



HAL DERWIN'S new dance band is making swift progress in California, and among his rooters he numbers Marian Carr, screen starlet, and the multi-talented David Rose, both of whom frequently drop around to

catch the Derwin dansapation. They are shown with Hal here. Before embarking as a maestro, Derwin sang and played guitar with Shep Fields, Artie Shaw and others. Now he is clicking on his own.